

Message Text

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21

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EA/PHL:BAFLECK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298629

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PHASE OUT OF FILIPINO RECRUITMENTS INTO
U.S. NAVY

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, US NAVY IS INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY
OF TERMINATION OF RECRUITMENT OF FILIPINOS INTO US NAVY.
DEPARTMENT HAS NOW RECEIVED FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM FROM DOD.

2. QUOTE - THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL HAS REDUCED THE
CURRENT QUOTAS AND PROPOSED THE POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF
FILIPINO RECRUITMENT FOR FY-51 AND BEYOND. THE CURRENT
LEVEL OF RECRUITMENT IS SET AT A TOTAL OF 554 ACCESSIONS
FOR FY-76, WITH QUOTAS OF 31-32 PER MONTH FOR THE LAST
HALF OF THE FISCAL YEAR. BASED ON OUR ACCESSION NEEDS AND
THE PROJECTED NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION, THE NAVY
DESIRES TO TERMINATE RECRUITMENTS AS OF THE END OF FY-76.
BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPACT SUCH TERMINATION
MAY HAVE ON U.S.-GOP RELATIONS, AND THE POSSIBLE UPCOMING
MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, THE VIEW/CONCURRENCE
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OF ISA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR TERMIN-

ATION IS HEREBY SOLICITED. END QUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT FEELS TERMINATION OF RECRUITMENT WOULD BE POSITIVE STEP TOWARD ENDING YET ANOTHER HANGOVER OF U.S.-

PHILIPPINE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP". WE REALIZE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS MUCH PRIZED BY FILIPINOS AND THAT ITS TERMINATION MAY CAUSE SOME UNHAPPINESS. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT RECRUITMENT OF FILIPINOS FOR RESTRICTED RANGE OF POSITIONS IN US NAVY IS NOT IN OUR CONTINUED BEST INTEREST AND THAT OVER THE LONG RUN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE BETTER FOR TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.

4. AS YOU SEE, NAVY HAS BEEN PHASING DOWN AND NOW PROPOSES TO TERMINATE RECRUITMENT AT END OF FY76. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS THIS PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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